

15th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum
Indigenous Issues: Panel Discussion
17 May 2016

Panel 2: Women, Peace and Conflict

Chairperson,

South Africa acknowledges the quality of the sharing on this important topic **by the panel**.

We wish to refer to our national statement presented during the previous panel discussion addressing the same issues on peace and conflict. The United Nations convened a five year review of the Beijing Conference on women in 2000 and adopted an outcome document entitled; "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development, and Peace for the 21st Century".

It is effectively 16 years that the UN system **has been grappling with issues** of gender equality and the empowerment of women, especially with the thematic issue of women, peace and conflict.

South Africa is cognisant of the fact that the developing countries have grappled for far too long with the historical injustices of slavery, conquests, displacements and colonialism. It is **however**, noted that satisfactory strides have been registered by some Countries in the following areas:

- Mustering the political will by some countries in electing female leaders, including Presidents,
- Achieving the 50/50 representation in national parliaments, provincial governments and at the local sphere including indigenous representation,
- Adopting a transformative agenda for the economic empowerment of women in critical areas such as land ownership, participation in economic activities such as extractive industries, construction, commercial agriculture and business entrepreneurship, and
- The development of national and regional training programmes for women facilitators, including indigenous women, in conflict resolution and peace building.

I thank you